

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 SAM-01 IO-10 /098 W

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R 121533Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3314

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS CAIRO 3716

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: KUWAIT NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS SADAT

SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW WITH KUWAIT NEWSPAPER, PRES. SADAT BLASTS QADHAAFI, MENTIONS THAT WEST IS PROVING TO BE GREATER SUPPORTER OF EGYPTIAN POLITICAL POSITION THAN SOME ARABS, AND ADDS THAT WHILE ARAB FINANCIAL AID TO EGYPT HAS BEEN MOST LAUDABLD, STILL MORE IS NEEDED. HE MAKES NO COMMENT ON REASON FOR FONMIN'S VISIT TO MOSCOW, NOTING THAT RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION ARE NOT THE BEST. DECISION ON CANAL REOPENING IS EVIDENCE OF EGYPTIAN FREE WILL, REMARKING THAT IT IS NOT IN US STRATEGIC INTEREST BECAUSE IT FACILITATES UNCLASSIFIED

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TRANSIT OF SOVIET NAVY.

1. CAIRO PRESS APRIL 12 FRONTPAGES PRES. SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH EDITOR OF KUWAIT NEWSPAPER "AL SIYASSA". LENGTHY INTERVIEW COVERED SEVERAL TOPICS OF WHICH HIGHLIGHTS ARE GIVEN BELOW.

2. LIBYAN ANTI-EGYPT CAMPAIGN: IT IS INSPIRED BY QADHAAFI "WHO IS 100 0/0 SICK; AND DEVIL HAS SEIZED HIM. HE OFFERED TO PAY EGYPT ONE BILLION POUNDS STERLING IF EGYPT WOULD SEVER RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, QATAR AND ABU DHABI".

3. RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION: THEY ARE NOT WHAT SADAT WISHES THEM TO BE; HOWEVER, RECENT MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS WAS "CORDIAL". FONMIN FAHMY WILL LEAVE FOR MOSCOW APRIL 19. SADAT HAS REQUESTED "GRACE PERIOD" ON REPAYMENT OF SOVIET DEBT, BUT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED RESPONSE.

4. ARAB SOLIDARITY: SADAT IS PLEASED THAT ARABS HAVE NOT BEEN EMBROILED IN DISPUTES OVER STRATEGY, BUT NOTES THAT "IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT WESTERNERS ARE MORE FAIR THAN OUR ARAB BROTHERS REGARDING EGYPT'S POSITION". HE LISTS TWO PRINCIPLES: NOT TO SURRENDER AN INCH OF ARAB TERRITORY AND NOT TO BARGAIN OVER TIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. AS EVIDENCE FOR EXISTENCE OF "EXCELLENT SOLIDARITY", SADAT REVEALED THAT ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMIDIENE, UNBEMKNOWNST TO EGYPT, VISITED USSR DURING OCTOBER WAR TO PAY 200 MILLION DOLLARS FOR EQUIPMENT FOR SYRIA AND EGYPT. IN ANOTHER INSTANCE, UAE GAVE EGYPT 100 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH IT HAD HAD TO BORROW FROM BRITISH BANKS. "IN UTTER SILENCE," KUWAIT AND QATAR OFFERED "MUCH MONEY" DESPITE LIMITED RESOURCES. SADAT ADDED THAT HE NEVERTHELESS NEEDS MORE AID MONEY.

5. SUEZ CANAL: SADAT'S DECISION TO REOPEN CANAL IS EVIDENCE OF EGYPT'S "FREE WILL"; EGYPT SIDES WITH NEITHER EAST NOR WEST AND RECEIVES DIRECTIVES FROM NO ONE. CANAL REOPENING GOES AGAINST INTERESTS OF U.S., AS IT FACILITATES PRESENCE OF RUSSIANS IN INDIAN OCEAN.

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6. ARAB DISPUTES: FOLLOWING RESOLUTION OF IRAN/IRAQ DISPUTE, IRAQ/KUWAIT AND IRAQ/SYRIA DISPUTES MUST BE RESOLVED. SADAT WILL SEND MESSAGE TO IRAQI LEADER SADDAM HUSSEIN "IN THIS CONNECTION".

7. GENEVA CONFERENCE: SADAT DOES NOT EXPECT "QUICK RESULTS," BUT CONVENING OF CONFERENCE WILL AT LEAST "KEEP THE ISSUE

WARM.....AND KEEP ISRAEL IN A TIGHT CORNER, EXPOSE HER
MORE TO THE WORLD AND GAIN EVEN GREATER SUPPORT FOR ARABS."

8. U.S. PUBLIC OPINION: ARABS MUST GIVE UP DIATRIBES AND MUST
INSTEAD MAKE THEIR POINT IN AN OBJECTIVE, CLEAR CUT MANNER
TO AMERICAN PUBLIC. THEY MUST "CONFRONT" AMERICANS WITH
THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND INTERESTS IN THE AREA. SADAT
NOTES THAT SENATORS PERCY AND MCGOVERN, ONCE "VEHEMENT
SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL" HAVE, THROUGH REASONING AND LOGIC,
NOW TAKEN A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE.

9. COMMENT: ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FAHMY WILL GO TO MOSCOW
AND SADAT'S ASCERBIC COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS ARE
GIVEN VERY DELIBERATE LOW-KEY PRESS PLAY. NO COMMENTARY
ACCOMPANIES ANNOUNCEMENT OF FONMIN'S TRAVEL PLANS,
WHICH APPEARS ONLY IN SMALL BOX ON FRONT PAGES. FRONT
PAGE SUMMARIES OF SADAT'S INTERVIEW SCARCELY MENTION SOVIET
UNION IN SPITE OF FACT THAT STATE OF RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS
IS PRESUMABLY IMPORTANT TOPIC IN THIS PRE-GENEVA PERIOD.
IN ADDITION, GENERAL TONE OF PRESS TODAY REFLECTS GOE PLEASURE
AND SELF CONFIDENCE THAT IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO PLAY LARGE PART
IN DETERMINING COURSE IN RECENT EVENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO03716
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750128-0826
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750455/aaaabywc.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAIT NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS SADAT SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW WITH KUWAIT NEWSPAPER, PRES.
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY, XF, (SADAT, ANWAR), (QADHAFI, MU'AMMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006